

FAIRFAX AREA COMMISSION ON AGING
FINAL MINUTES OF MEETING
Wednesday, February 20, 2013

Falls Church City Hall, Community Center – Art Room, 223 Little Falls Street, Falls Church, VA 22046

Commissioners Present:

Tena Bluhm (Chair), Maureen Renault (Vice Chair), Tom Bash, Nazir Bhagat, Glenda DeVinney, Julie Bloom Ellis, Dan Henderson, Kenneth Malmberg, Mary Jo Rasmussen, Suzanne Rudiselle

Commissioners Absent:

Joe Heastie, Kay Larmer

Staff Present:

Jacquie Woodruff

Others Present:

Martine Hubbard-Watson, *National Council on Aging*; Thomasine Grady, *National Council on Aging*; Emebie Fierubel, *National Council on Aging*; Barbara Antley, *Fairfax County Department of Family Services*; Carol Radden, *Caring Transitions*; Bob Eiffert, *Fairfax County Health Department*; Rhiannon Duck, *Board of Supervisors – Braddock District*; John Dargle, *Fairfax County Park Authority*

Call to Order, Adoption of the day's Agenda and Draft Minutes:

Chair Tena Bluhm called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Mary Jo motioned that the agenda be accepted; Suzanne seconded.

Suzanne motioned that the draft minutes be accepted; Dan seconded.

Public Comment:

No public comment. NCOA representatives distributed information about financial programs for those 55+.

Presentation:

Aging Initiatives in the Park Service – John Dargle, Director, Park Authority.

John Dargle presented an overview of aging initiatives in the Park Authority and distributed an update on 50+ Action Plan initiatives. More than 40,000 older adults participate in the Park Authority programs each year while many others enjoy miles of free walking trails, nature centers, parks, tennis courts, and other park amenities. Fifty-five percent of Park Authority volunteers are 50+, including 92% of the golf volunteers. In addition to satisfaction surveys, John hosts director's listening forums every three months. After discussion, John agreed to follow up with the COA with responses to their questions.

The COA requested to be invited to appropriate Parks discussions that might be related to aging issues. Tena asked for advocacy requests for COA. John stated that it would be beneficial to have revenues in advance to accommodate the changing demographic. John is trying to get more involved in human services.

The COA inquired about installing senior playgrounds as suggested in the COA 50+ Action Plan SWOT. John has discussed this concept with Marlae Schnare, Supervisor Herrity's senior aide, and is working on possible plans for an installation at South Run. John read about senior playgrounds in *USA Today* and visited an example in Sarasota. He stated that senior playgrounds also add artistic value to the community.

Old Business:

- BOS 50+ – May 21, 10:00 a.m.

Sharon, Jacquie, Marlae Schnare (Supervisor Herrity's aide), and Rosemary Ryan (Supervisor Cook's aide) will be meeting with the Deputy County Executives' Senior Management Teams to discuss the 50+ Action Plan and aging initiatives. The commissioners expressed frustration about delays in the development process for the updated 50+ Action Plan. Maureen motioned that the COA initiate a request to Supervisor Herrity, BOS 50+ Committee Chair, for permission to host public forum meetings for feedback on the draft 2013 50+ Action Plan. Mary Jo seconded the motion. After discussion, the commissioners approved the motion unanimously. Tena will contact Supervisor Herrity's office about the COA's offer to assist with public forums.

New Business – 1:45 p.m.:

- BOS Fiscal Year 2014 Proposed Budget Hearings – Thursday, April 11, 2013, 3:00 p.m.

Tena will be out of the country during the BOS budget hearings. Dan volunteered to testify. Tena requested that commissioners notify her about willingness to testify by February 27.

- Human Services Council Community input invitation on the FY 2014 Advertised Budget Plan.

Tena agreed to present COA budget priorities to the Human Services Council. Maureen will review testimony with Tena.

- Call, Click, Connect: Developing an information hub for older adults in Fairfax County – Tom Bash.

Tom distributed a handout he prepared and reminded the COA that residents can call one number – the Aging, Disability and Caregiver Resources line (intake) – for any information related to older adult issues. He stated that a theme at the December 11

BOS 50+ Committee meeting was that many don't know what services are available and how to find them. Although the COA provided input and has been pleased with the new older adults website developed by Grace Lynch, an older site is still the one listed on the home page. Tom is working with Marlae Schnare from Supervisor Herrity's office to ensure that the new website is easily accessible to the public.

Director's Report:

In Sharon's absence, Jacquie directed the commissioners to the AAA unit updates in the meeting packet.

Member Activity Reports:

Glenda is unsure how sequestration and possible furlough may affect her federal government job, but will try hard to attend COA meetings.

Suzanne met with Supervisor Hudgins regarding housing for low-income seniors. She shared information about the county's lack of designation for low-income senior housing and stated that this designation would not cost the county. Maureen suggested that the COA consider affordable housing as a possible annual theme for the COA.

Dan met with the Director of Human Services for the City of Falls Church.

Tena reported that the COA inbox recently received an email regarding indigent burial process. Barbara Antley stated that the county attorney is examining how processes might work more quickly in conjunction with Virginia law.

Tena met with COA Chairs from Arlington and Alexandria. Approaches vary among the three groups. They will meet again for information sharing and support.

Ken rode with Supervisor Cook on the new bus service from Burke to Tysons. He noted an Inova article regarding gerontology in hospitals.

Nazir is back from India and has written an article for the Golden Gazette.

Tom and Nazir reported that the Building For All Committee and AARP are sponsoring a universal design seminar at Lincolnia on March 27. BFAC is working with MLS for accessible housing feature listings.

Adjourn:

Ken motioned to adjourn at 3:10 p.m.; Nazir seconded.